

Governor's Proclamation for Elder Abuse Awareness Week

and

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day 2012

Elder Abuse Awareness Week - June 10th – 16th, 2012

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day - June 15, 2012

WHEREAS, The State of Maryland is home for more than 2 million individuals 50 years of age and older; and,

WHEREAS, It is estimated that every five seconds an elderly person is abused; and,

WHEREAS, In 2011, officials at the State and local levels received, investigated, or assisted with over 8,000 reports of abuse, neglect, self-neglect, exploitation, or domestic violence. Elder abuse is an under-reported problem that may have devastating or life-threatening consequences; and,

WHEREAS, Maryland joins the national and international efforts to heighten awareness and prevent abuse of the elderly by establishing multidisciplinary and inter-agency committees, task forces, workgroups, and coalitions at the State and local levels; and,

WHEREAS, Maryland has established a statewide Stakeholder's Group to develop a coordinated response to the problem of elder abuse. Members include the: MD Departments of Aging, Health & Mental Hygiene, Human Resources, and Public Safety & Correctional Services; MD Office of the Attorney General; MD Association of Area Agencies on Aging; MD Legal Aid Bureau; Montgomery Elder and Vulnerable Adult Abuse Task Force; MD Crime Victims' Resource Center, Inc.; Office of the State's Attorney for Prince George's County; Baltimore County Restoring Elder Safety Today Coalition; Protecting Elders Against Crime & Exploitation Coalition; and concerned citizens; and,

WHEREAS, Maryland's older adults should be treated with dignity and respect in recognition of their significant contributions to the betterment of the state; and,

WHEREAS, Maryland is pleased to focus attention on the heightened sensitivity about the issue of elder abuse, as Maryland's elderly deserve our respect, protection, and care.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARTIN O'MALLEY, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND, do hereby proclaim JUNE 10th -16th, 2012 as ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS WEEK and recognize JUNE 15, 2012 as WORLD ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY in Maryland, and do confer this commemoration to all of our citizens.

Given Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the State of Maryland,
This 15th Day of June
Two Thousand and twelve